



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

MARCH 25, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER MANAGER OF KC CAR DEALERSHIP PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the former general manager of a Kansas City, Mo., car dealership pleaded guilty in federal court today to bank fraud.

Donald E. Ferrell, 49, of Raytown, Mo., waived his right to a grand jury and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to a federal information that charges him with nine counts of bank fraud.

Ferrell was employed as the general manager at Pete Franklin's National Auto Sales, Inc., most recently managing the store at 7601 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, Kan., from 1999 through August 2001. By pleading guilty today, **Ferrell** admitted that, from Jan. 4, 2000, to July 27, 2001, he executed a scheme to defraud Blue Ridge Bank and Trust Company, 4240 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, of more than \$30,000.

Ferrell falsified documents relating to vehicle sales, Graves explained, which caused the company to issue fraudulent vehicle refund, rebate and insurance checks made payable to customers and an insurance agent who were not entitled to the funds. When the checks were sent to **Ferrell**, Graves said, he forged the endorsement signatures on the checks and deposited them into his personal checking account at Blue Ridge Bank.

Each of the nine counts of the federal information charges a separate check, ranging from \$569 to \$2,150, that **Ferrell** deposited into his account. Although those nine checks total \$9,733, Graves added, **Ferrell** admitted that the total loss from the fraud actually exceeded \$30,000.

Under federal statutes, **Ferrell** could be subject to a sentence of up to 30 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow